

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1                   1.       (Currently amended): A method for accessing information in an  
2 information store in accordance with an access policy, said method comprising:  
3                   receiving an access request comprising a request for a first type of information,  
4 wherein said request for a first type of information has associated therewith first information  
5 contained in said information store;  
6                   replacing said request for a first type of information with a modified request for a  
7 first type of information, wherein said modified request ~~being is~~ based on said access policy; and  
8                   accessing said information store to produce a result in response to said access  
9 request, wherein said result comprises rows of information, wherein each row of information  
10 includes either an instance of said first information or a masked value in place of an instance of  
11 said first information depending-modified request produces either a masked value or said first  
12 information, based on said access policy.

B1 1                   2.       (Currently amended): The method of claim 1 wherein said modified  
2 request includes a mask function which determines for a row whether said row includes an  
3 instance of said first information or a masked value in place of an instance of said first  
4 information.

1                   3.       (Original): The method of claim 2 wherein said accessing includes  
2 executing said mask function to produce either said masked value or said first information.

1                   4.       (Currently amended): The method of claim 1 further including modifying  
2 said access request to include a filter function, said filter function effective for eliminating  
3 portions of one or more of said result rows of information in accordance with said access policy.

1                   5.       (Currently amended): The method of claim 1 wherein said information  
2 store is a relational database and said request for a first type of information comprises a SELECT  
3 statement, said SELECT statement comprising one or more column references, said modified  
4 request comprising a replacement of at least one of said one or more column references with a  
5 mask function, each column reference identifying a specific column in said relational database.

1                   6.       (Currently amended): The method of claim 1 wherein said information  
2 store is a relational database and said access request includes a WHERE clause, ~~said result~~  
3 ~~comprising one or more rows of information~~, said method further including incorporating a filter  
4 function in said WHERE clause to remove certain rows contained in said result, based on said  
5 access policy.

1                   7.       (Currently amended): In a relational database, a method for accessing  
2 information in accordance with an access policy, said method comprising:

3                   providing at least one query comprising a SELECT statement, said SELECT  
4 statement comprising one or more column references, each column reference identifying a  
5 specific column in said relational database;

6                   replacing at least one of said one or more column references with a mask function  
7 to produce a modified query; and

8                   producing a query result in response to said modified query comprising one or  
9 more rows of information;

10                   wherein some rows of information comprise entirely of information from said  
11 relational database, and other rows of information comprise information from said relational  
12 database and a mask value, depending on said access policy.

13                   ~~wherein said query result includes, for said at least one of said one or more~~  
14 ~~column references, either mask values or information from said relational database, based on~~  
15 ~~said access policy.~~

1                   8.     (Original): The method of claim 7 wherein said at least one query further  
2 comprises a WHERE clause, said method further including modifying said WHERE clause to  
3 produce a modified WHERE clause which includes a filter function, said filter function  
4 producing one of two logical values, said modified WHERE clause effective for deleting a row  
5 from said query result based on a value produced by said filter function.

1                   9.     (Currently amended): The method of claim 7 wherein said relational  
2 database ~~in~~is provided in a database server; said step of providing includes receiving said at least  
3 one query at a client system; and said step of producing includes transmitting said modified  
4 query to said database server.

1                   10.    (Original): The method of claim 9 wherein said step of replacing is  
2 performed at said client system.

1                   11.    (Original): The method of claim 9 wherein said step of replacing is  
2 performed at said database server.

B1  
1                   12.    (Currently amended): A computer-based information retrieval system  
2 comprising:  
3                   computer memory having computer readable program code embodied therein for  
4 accessing an information store in accordance with an access policy, said computer readable  
5 program code comprising:  
6                   first code configured to receive an access request for a first type of  
7 information, wherein said request for a first type of information has associated therewith first  
8 information;  
9                   second code configured to replace said request for a first type of  
10 information with a modified request for a first type of information, wherein said modified  
11 request ~~being~~is based on said access policy; and  
12                   third code configured to access said information store to produce a result  
13 in response to said access request, wherein said result comprises rows of information, wherein

14 each row of information includes either an instance of said first information or a masked value in  
15 place of an instance of said first information depending, based on said access policy.

1 13. (Currently amended): The system of claim 12 further including fourth  
2 code configured to modify said access request to include a filter function, said filter function  
3 effective for eliminating portions of one or more of said result rows of information in accordance  
4 with said access policy.

1 14. (Currently amended): The system of claim 12 further including a  
2 relational database and said request for a first type of information comprises a SELECT  
3 statement, said SELECT statement comprising one or more column references, said modified  
4 request comprising a replacement of at least one of said one or more column references with a  
5 mask function, each column reference identifying a specific column in said relational database.

1 15. (Currently amended): The system of claim 12 further including a  
2 relational database and said access request includes a WHERE clause, ~~said result comprising one~~  
3 ~~or more rows of information~~, said second code further configured to incorporate a filter function  
4 in said WHERE clause to remove certain rows contained in said result, based on said access  
5 policy.

1 16. (Original): The system of claim 12 further including a client computer  
2 system and a server computer system, said client computer system comprising a portion of said  
3 computer memory embodying said first and second codes, said server computer system  
4 comprising another portion of said computer memory embodying said third code.

1 17. (Currently amended): The system of claim 12 wherein said database  
2 server is a relational database server, said request for a first type of information comprises a  
3 SELECT statement, said SELECT statement comprising one or more column references, said  
4 modified request comprising a replacement of at least one of said one or more column references  
5 with a mask function, each column reference identifying a specific column in said relational  
6 database.

1                   18.     (Currently amended): The system of claim 17 wherein said third code  
2 includes a mask function which determines for a row whether said row includes an instance of  
3 said first information or a masked value in place of an instance of said first information.

1                   19.     (Currently amended): The system of claim 16 wherein said database  
2 server is a relational database server, said access request includes a WHERE clause, ~~said result~~  
3 ~~comprising one or more rows of information~~, said second code further configured to incorporate  
B1 4 a filter function in said WHERE clause to remove certain rows contained in said result, based on  
5 said access policy.

1                   20.     (Currently amended): The system of claim 19 wherein said third code  
2 includes a mask function which determines for a row whether said row includes an instance of  
3 said first information or a masked value in place of an instance of said first information.

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